

Remarks

The specification has been amended on page 8 to add a reference to step 435, shown in Fig. 4.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite that the remote calls are issued by “a plurality” of requestor applications (10-13) and, further, that the dispatching step comprises the step of passing at least one of the one or more connections from one of the requestor applications to another of the requestor applications after the connection has been used for the first requestor application (page 4, lines 18-21; page 17, lines 11-12).

Claim 13 has been cancelled.

New claim 15, dependent on claim 1, recites that the dispatching step comprises the steps of determining whether an existing connection is free to accept a call (step 430) and dispatching the call to an existing connection if an existing connection is free to accept the call (step 440). New claim 16, dependent on claim 15, recites that the dispatching step further comprises the step of opening a new connection and dispatching the call to the new connection if no existing connection is free to accept the call (step 435).

New claim 17, also dependent on claim 1, recites that the dispatching step comprises the steps of determining whether a connection is to be reused for a new call after it has been used for a previous call and keeping the connection open if the connection is to be reused for a new call, otherwise, closing the connection without using it for a new call (step 470).

New claim 18 is similar to claim 1 as amended, but is directed to apparatus, namely, a remote call manager (Fig. 2: 23) comprising a remote call connector (25-27) and a remote call dispatcher (24). New claims 19 to 21 are similar to new claims 15 to 17, but depend on claim 18.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,339,783 to Horikiri et al. (“Horikiri”). Claims 4, 7, 9 and 11 have

been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horikiri in view of other cited references.

Since the rejections under § 103(a) are predicated on the base rejection under § 102(e), it will be sufficient for the purpose of this response to address this base rejection.

Horikiri discloses a system that supposedly allows a user to invoke a composite remote procedure by connecting simpler remote procedures. As the patentee describes with reference to Fig. 1, a remote procedure client 100 and a remote procedure server 200 are interconnected “via a network” that is not shown in the figure (col. 4, lines 46-48). Remote procedure server 200 includes, among other components, a receiver 202, a message analyzer 204 and a remote procedure manager 210.

Receiver 202 receives a message from a transmitter 106 of the client 100 and directs it to message analyzer 204 (col. 5, lines 56-58). If the message is a procedure call message, message analyzer 204 extracts a parameter from the message and outputs it to remote procedure manager 210 (col. 6, lines 1-3). Remote procedure manager 210 then retrieves the remote procedure container 211 that matches the query included in the parameter (col. 6, lines 7-10).

The Examiner equates Horikiri’s receiver 202 with applicants’ claimed receiving step, the message analyzer 204 with applicants’ claimed providing step, and the remote procedure manager 210 with applicant’s claimed dispatching step. Presumably in this analogy, the container 211 would be equated with applicants’ claimed remote system application. Even with these correspondences, however, there is nothing in Horikiri corresponding to applicants’ claimed step of passing a connection from one requestor application to another requestor application after the connection has been used for the first requestor application. Rather, in Horikiri, any connection¹ is apparently created for a single request only (as shown in applicants’ Fig. 1) and is not passed between requestor applications for subsequent requests.

¹ This applies to the link between the client 100 and the server 200. The Examiner has not pointed to anything within the server 200 itself that constitutes a “connection”, which has been defined as “an association established between functional units for conveying information”. J. Rosenberg, Dictionary of Computers, Information Processing, and Telecommunications, Second Edition (1987), page 23.

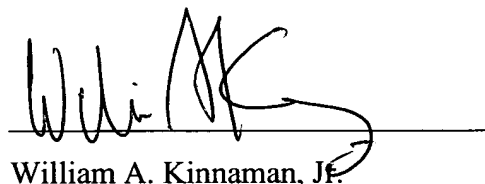
Accordingly, Horikiri neither anticipates nor renders obvious the subject matter of claim 1 as amended. For similar reasons, neither does Horikiri anticipate or render obvious the subject matter of claim 18.

Claims 15-17 and 19-21 are further believed to distinguish patentably over Horikiri by virtue of their recitation that a call is dispatched to an existing connection if an existing connection is free to accept the call (claims 15-16 and 19-20) or that a connection is kept open if the connection is to be reused for a new call (claims 17 and 21).

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. It is hoped that upon such consideration, the Examiner will hold all claims allowable and pass the case to issue at an early date. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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By

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